

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the claims with the following:

1. (Currently amended) A nozzle unit for generating an abrasive jet, which nozzle unit comprises:

- a first nozzle connected to a pressurized carrier fluid supply, which first nozzle in a section thereof with its highest restriction defines a first nozzle opening having a cross sectional area A_1 ;
- a mixing chamber in which the first nozzle discharges;
- a second nozzle connected to the mixing chamber, which second nozzle in a section thereof with its highest restriction defines a second nozzle opening having a cross sectional area A_2 ; and
- an abrasive particle inlet discharging in the mixing chamber;

wherein the ratio A_1/A_2 is greater than or equal to 0.50 and lower than 1, wherein the first nozzle has an inside wall aligned with an inside wall of the mixing chamber and also aligned with an inside wall of the second nozzle.

2. (Currently amended) The nozzle unit according to claim 1, wherein the first nozzle has an exit opening and the second nozzle has an entry opening and wherein the distance between the exit opening of the first nozzle and the entry opening of the second nozzle is such that, the length in flow direction of the mixing chamber is such, that taking into account the divergence of the jet to be discharged from the first nozzle, the diameter of the jet leaving the mixing chamber is smaller than the diameter of the second nozzle opening.

3. (Currently amended) The nozzle unit according to claim 1, wherein the first nozzle has an exit opening and the second nozzle has an entry opening and wherein the distance between the exit opening of the first nozzle and the entry opening of the second nozzle is the length in flow direction of the mixing chamber is in the range of 0.8-2.0 times the diameter of the first nozzle opening.

4. (Currently amended) The nozzle unit according to claim 1, wherein the second nozzle has an entry opening and an exit opening and wherein the distance between the entry opening of the second nozzle and the exit opening ~~the length in flow direction of the second nozzle~~ is in the range of 4-10 times the second nozzle diameter.

5. (Previously presented) The nozzle unit according to claim 1, wherein the second nozzle is eccentrically arranged relative to the first nozzle.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The nozzle unit according to claim 1, comprising a supply channel connected to the abrasive supply inlet, wherein the supply channel surrounds the mixing chamber by an angle of less than 180°.

9. (Previously presented) The nozzle unit according to claim 1, comprising a supply channel connected to the abrasive supply inlet, wherein the included angle between the flow direction in the supply channel and an axis along the flow direction of the primary nozzle, is smaller than 60°.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a nozzle unit according to claim 1, and a separation device for separating magnetic ~~magnetic~~ or magnetizable abrasive particles from a fluid, which separation device comprises a magnet body for attracting the abrasive particles out of a fluid flowing along the separation device, and a support surface at least partially enveloping the magnet body, and means for transporting attracted abrasive particles along the support surface to the abrasive particle inlet of the nozzle unit.

11. (Previously presented) A method of excavating a hole into an object, comprising the steps of:

- arranging into the hole an abrasive jet excavating tool comprising a nozzle unit, which nozzle unit comprises;
 - a first nozzle connected to a pressurized carrier fluid supply, which first nozzle in a section thereof with its highest restriction defines a second nozzle opening having a cross sectional area A_1 ;
 - a mixing chamber in which the first nozzle discharges;
 - a second nozzle connected to the mixing chamber, which second nozzle in a section thereof with its highest restriction defines a second nozzle opening having a cross section area A_2 ; and
 - an abrasive particle inlet discharging in the mixing chamber;wherein the ratio A_1/A_2 is greater than or equal to 0.50 and lower than 1, wherein the first nozzle has an inside wall aligned with an inside wall of the mixing chamber,
- generating an abrasive jet by supplying a pressurized carrier fluid to the first nozzle and discharging abrasive particles into the mixing chamber; and
- directing the abrasive jet into the object.